

Application No.: 10/519,736
Examiner: JULES, FRANTZ F

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims of the present application under the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), as indicated below:

1. (Currently amended): A track-tightening device for crawlers, comprising an undercarriage or bogie consisting of a structure (20) which includes elements (21) for carrying a plurality of fixed lower supporting rollers (2), as well as idler back-pull wheels (11) and optionally a crawler wheel, said structure (20) ~~having a~~ also housing guide system (25) for controlled axial sliding of the track-tightening device (5) carried by a second movable structure (8), said second movable structure (8) being equipped with fittings (26) which interconnect with the guide system (25), said second movable structure (8) having an idler wheel (3) as well as at least one movable supporting roller (22) capable of following the longitudinal movement of the idler wheel (3), the structure (20) and the second movable structure interact by way of guide (25) and fittings (26) to modify the wheel base between the idler wheel (3) and the back pull wheel (11) of the bogie by axial sliding, ~~the second movable structure (8) also carrying at least one supporting roller (22), capable of following the longitudinal movement of the idler wheel (3),~~ characterized in that wherein the structure (20) is a box shaped and where said at least one of said movable lower supporting rollers (22) is in constant contact with the idler wheel (3) so that ~~the~~ their reciprocal distance does not vary during the operating life of the vehicle, under any operating condition and with any range of the track-tightening device.

2. (Previously presented): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 1, characterized in that the second movable structure (8) carries two or more movable supporting rollers (22).

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3. (Previously presented): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 2, characterized in that the second movable structure (8) carries two or more movable supporting rollers (22) with a floating bogie arrangement.

4. (Original): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 1, characterized in that the idler wheel (3) is installed on the bogie in a front position.

5. (Currently amended): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 1, characterized in that the movable supporting rollers have the same structure and dimensions as the fixed lower supporting rollers (2).

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently amended): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 1, characterized in that the track-tightener device (5) is activated with a tightener/shock absorber group (30) which comprises a helicoidal spring (36) possessing a fixed shoulder (34), which said helicoidal spring operates in extension, and a chamber (38) filled with the injection of a lubricant which acts as an adjustable run end and tightener of the chain (1) of the track.

8. (Original): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 7, characterized in that the tightener/shock absorber group (30) comprises calibration means of the longitudinal position of the fixed shoulder (34) of the helicoidal spring (36) with respect to the structure (20) of the undercarriage.

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9. (Original): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 7, characterized in that the tightener/shock absorber group (30) comprises a cylindrical telescopic guide (31/32) coaxial with the helicoidal spring (36) and with the lubricant injection chamber (38).

10. (Original): The track-tightening device for crawlers according to claim 7, characterized in that the tightener/shock absorber group (30) is comprised of ~~comprises-[[a]]~~ the helicoidal spring (36) and ~~with~~ the lubricant injection chamber (38) separate and arranged in series on the same axis.

11. (Cancelled)